

From: Ivo Jossart
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 9:47am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

i cannot agree with this court decision.

It's not weakening Microsoft, it's no real punishment for a company that's convicted for unfair practices... (practices that continue going on - have a look at Windows2000 & Windows XP - i cannot remove Outlook Express, Internet Explorer, MSN Messenger).

I also would like to see that the court tells Microsoft that every software inside Windows2000 that was removable in Window98 and earlier, should remain removable. e.g. Internet Explorer, Media Player, MSN Messenger, defragmentation software, windows scripting host...

Due to the connection between the operating system and the internet browser, millions and millions of dollars have been lost - due to virus-spreading activities. No real changes have been made to make the systems safer - by making the Internet Browser a normal application instead of putting it inside the operating system, as Microsoft want is to be. I believe an operating system should server the applications - and there should be a difference between the operating system and the internetapplications - just to keep everything a bit more secure. A lot of software-packages are no real part of an operating system, should be removable and we should have the right to protect our privacy and freedom of choise.

That right is never been more neglected that during the last few years - it started with the apprearance of Windows2000 and it's getting worse every time there's a new operating system on the market.

At this moment we're in no position of asking Microsoft to do so - now at the point that there is an overwhelming majority of IE users, it seems that the company is loosening their grip a bit on the Internet browser-theme.

I also want to point out that this company is spreading lies about an open source initiative called linux. It's just a game for them - and there's no way to defend us consumers against these practices.

But right now they're playing the same game as with Internet-explorer vs. netscape on the multi-media streaming market & the instant messaging market. Of course the software is free - but the development costs are hidden into the operating system cost. (look at the higher prices of Windows XP home & Windows XP Profession - vs. Windows98 & windowsNT 4).

Normally i don't have the right to interfere, but due to the worldwide effect of this case, I believe it's my moral duty to say something about this important theme. And i believe i have the right to interfere - when an american company hurts a world-citizen, that man or woman should be able to say what he has to say. There's more in this play than just unfair business practices it's the freedom of speach that's endangered.

Kind regards.

